

WYCOMBE Wanderers travel to Ilford tomorrow (Saturday) where they face the bottom club in the Rothmans Isthmian League. But despite Ilford's dismal start to the season, three points are not assured for the Blues from this game which is listed on the pools coupons.

Ilford's total of five points from 13 games (at the time of writing) have come from a win and a draw against Bishop's Stortford and an away draw at Enfield. This suggests that they can raise their game on occasions despite the fact that they have yet to score at home on a Saturday.

Their poor start is a result of a mass exodus of players from last season. Several of their top men left including Terry Moore, Tony Gibson, John Still, Peter Deadman and Tony Bass. Only Russell Mumford, Steve Rogers, Steve Barratt, Dave Holden and Trevor Morgan remain.

The players departed after the club made financial cuts all round to stave off a bank overdraft which was incurred after long delays in moving grounds. Ilford are leaving Newbury Park at the end of the season to Fairlop, two miles away. Their current ground is being sold to residential developers while Redbridge Council has allocated them 10 acres for their new ground. The price the club will receive for Newbury Park has not yet been announced.

Ilford's overdraft was not helped when the club was fined £2,000 by the F.A. following irregularities in their books discovered during the close season. Two officials were also suspended by the F.A.

However, with the club obviously building for the future, they will be anxious to stay in Division One this season and it is expected they will be signing new players in the near future.